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FREE
JANUARY 17, 2013

5 tell-tale signs that you're dangerously addicted to fashion

Fire and police stations to close as austerity bites

Fury as 999 services face huge cutbacks

Lives are at risk, say critics as axe falls deeply across the Docklands boroughs

Rob.Virtue
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East London is facing sweeping cuts to its emergency services in the face of the Government's austerity measures.

Both the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade have announced their plans to deal with budget reductions – and the proposals make for grim reading.

Tower Hamlets, Newham and Greenwich all face police and fire station closures. Critics say lives are being put at risk.

London Assembly member for City and East, John Biggs, said: "The cuts are too deep and will jeopardise safety, not only risking an increase in recorded crime but also the fear of crime.

"And the East End is losing a fire station and a fire appliance when Tower Hamlets has the largest call-out rates and many live in big apartment blocks. Response times will rise."

Across the capital 12 fire stations are being closed and 520 frontline staff will lose their jobs.

Continued on Page 10

GETTY

Making a splash

With the SS Robin as a backdrop, Jack Moule, 18, the British national freestyle Jetski Champion entertains the crowds with his tricks at the London Boat Show, at Excel in Docklands.

Special report and pictures • Page 4-5

Inside

The dream comes true

Six-figure investment means couple can pay themselves a salary P3

the Wharf PROPERTY AWARDS

Everything you need to know about our new competition P14

FOCUS Canary Wharf Ice Sculpting Festival • Winners and losers in the river crossing debate

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Agenda

WEATHER

2C	TODAY	Sunny but cold
1C	FRIDAY	Snow
1C	SATURDAY	Light snow
4C	SUNDAY	Sleet
4C	MONDAY	Light rain

TRAVEL

TUBE & DLR
The DLR is closed between Bow Church and Stratford all weekend. The Jubilee line is shut between Stanmore and West Hampstead.
ROADS
No problems.

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ESTABLISHED 1998

Putting some colour in January's cheeks

January 22 is officially the most depressing day of the year.

A calculation, that includes weather, debt, time since Christmas, time since failing New Year's resolutions, low motivational attitudes and other worrisome indicators, produces that specific date.

Or to be more precise – the final Monday of the final full week of January.

Surely that's a contender for the world's most bleak maths equation ever? Only to be beaten by how many dead kittens does it take to stuff a hole in the ozone layer that's going to kill us all anyway.

BLONDE'S EYE VIEW

ANGELA **CLARKE**

The official most depressing day of the year is also known as Blue Monday.

How sad does Blue Monday sound? Like a failed Picasso painting. Or a disappointing '80s cover band

Why not call it Sad Panda Face Day and be done with it. I'm hanging on for Puce Tuesday or Polka Dot Thursday. They must come along soon.

Oh, if I only I had a grasp of maths and a set of rainbow coloured felt tips, I could cheer us all up.

You don't need to be a pseudo-scientist to know that January is a pretty forlorn month. Everyone's sick for a start. They keep getting the Norovirus, or that phlegmy cough-y, cold-y, snot monkey thing that keeps going round. It's all very 2012. Don't the germs know it's time to move on? Haven't they punished us enough? Oh when will it all end.

Only a week and a bit till we make it to February. Then we can all look forward to Valentines Day. Excuse me while I roll my eyes and sigh.

Red hearts! Flowers! Saccharine greetings cards! Life size Teddy bears made by child labourers!

Never mind Blue Monday, can we re-christen that Bleurgh Thursday?

Win Angela's book / Page 45

Reuters' view

Police officers in riot gear stand near a burning hijacked car during rioting in East Belfast over the issue of the Union flag flying above City Hall

A week in photos Page 52

What our writers are talking about

■ Life is dumb luck and adventure. You can't condition a society just to coral the mindless few.
Giles Broadbent

■ When did I lose that sense of excitement, the magic that is associated with the arrival of snow?
Tabitha Ronson

■ This venue is a precious relic from a time when men drove real automobiles, heavily sedated with liquor.
Jon Massey

■ They said it couldn't be done but this week we moved a step closer to starting the £36million Poplar Baths development.
Lutfur Rahman

60 Second Wharf

NEWS

Cable car's lifeline
Despite cable car numbers hitting only 10 per cent of capacity, TfL said it was satisfied with the link.
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TV stars in town
Dermot O'Leary and a host of TV stars will descend on Greenwich next week for the National TV Awards.
Page 8

Next stop Custom House
Work has started on Crossrail's Custom House station while a tunnel under the Thames has begun.
Page 11

FEATURES

The speakeasy vibe
The Luggage Room in Mayfair teases its clients with a speakeasy vibe and a hint of the mysterious.
Food • Page 12

Riding the waves
With the boat show in town we look at ways to keep fit using our docks and rivers.
Health • Page 47

Django reviewed
Jamie Foxx stars in Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained* – but does he make an impact?
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Corrections & Clarifications

At *The Wharf*, we pride ourselves in journalism that is honest, accurate and fair.

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DOCKLANDS BUSINESS CLUB
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Couple's faith in social task network pays off

ENTREPRENEURS

Telecoms giant swoops in with six-figure sum to ease pressure on savings

Beth.Allcock
@wharf.co.uk

A Poplar couple who pooled their savings to fund the creation of a start-up company have seen their hard work rewarded with a six-figure investment.

Taskhub is the brainchild of Aurore Hochard and Rahul Ahuja, who co-ordinate the online marketplace for jobs and services from a base near Tottenham Court Road.

Founded in January last year, the website allows Londoners to post a job that needs doing alongside the rate they would like to pay, ranging from dog walking and flat cleaning to fixing windows or a cat flap.

Another member then selects the best offer for them. It is pitched as a way of creating social networks.

The initiative received backing from Telefonica in May, securing a place in its London-based digital incubation and start-up space Wayra Academies, and taking a major cash boost in the form of an undisclosed six-figure investment from the telecommunications firm this month, as well as a distribution partnership with O2.

18 months without a salary to get site going

Talking of the funding, Aurore said: "That was really exciting. We have always been enthusiastic about the project, so much so we haven't taken a salary from one and a half years ago up until today.

"We gave the money we had saved up to buy a flat to Taskhub and getting the money has been good, because there is only so long you can last with your personal savings.

"And to have validation for what we do from such a big company is really encouraging.

"We have so many other ideas and plans for the future and it seems it is going to be easier with a group like Telefonica behind us."

Currently, only members and those who receive invites can post and bid for London-based services on Taskhub.

Aurore said: "There's two aspects really – the commercial one of 'I want something done, I'm willing to pay up to a certain price and if someone bids any more I don't have to go for the cheapest option'. But the second is we want to work with charities and people who want to volunteer.

"It's giving back to the community and us trying to make this process nicer and easier so more people get to volunteer and get to interact with each other.

"The function of the group is to allow a stronger relationship between members within a community, that's the idea overall."

Go to taskhub.co.uk for more information.

Aurore Hochard, above, and Rahul Ahuja, below, started and funded TaskHub with their savings

NEWS IN BRIEF

Around east London

Pop-up Old Flo is doing the rounds

EAST LONDON Although Old Flo is now a familiar figure greeting visitors at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, a model of the statue is currently touring her home turf.

A pop-up display of Henry Moore's *Draped Seated Woman*, created by Bob and Roberta Smith, is this week parading through the East End to encourage residents to share their views about its potential sale.

Public sessions will be held at Tower Hamlets College today, at 1pm, at Poplar Recreation Ground at 1.30pm and starting at 2pm in Chrisp Street Market.

Man left friend for dead in fight

DOCKLANDS An alcoholic who punched his friend of 10 years and then dragged his dying body down seven flights of stairs and into the Woodman Street in May last year has been jailed for three years.

Nadeem Yasin, 43, of Shaw House, Claremont Street in North Woolwich, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Zahir Bouchia, 43, at the Old Bailey.

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Focus

Will your pennies stretch to life on the ocean wave?

BOAT SHOW

FROM vessels and accessories for the beginner to the seasoned sailer, the London Boat Show at Excel offers a treasure trove of all things nautical.

Visitors to the nine-day extravaganza, which kicked off on Saturday, will be able to experience at first-hand a variety of newly-launched products as well as take their pick from an array of house boats and yachts in the Used Boat Marina.

Clothing and accessories are catered for with numerous outlets and for adventure-seekers, the multi-activity pool allows guests to take part in the action. This year's event has already attracted celebrities including tenor Alfie Boe, David Dimbleby and four-time gold medallist Sir Ben Ainslie.

And famous faces from last summer's sailing successes, including Iain Percy, Andrew Simpson and Pippa Wilson, will be hoping to replicate their form in the inaugural CNM Estates UK Star Class Regatta on Friday.

BETH ALLCOCK went along to find out what her (fictitious) fortunes could buy her.

Go to londonboatshow.com.

For £5

Collins Gem Knots Book
£4.99, Kelvin Hughes Bookharbour

■ A step-by-step guide to getting you clued up on the most important knots needed for sailing to ensure you don't get in a tangle on boating adventures.

"It's ideal for someone who is starting out," said sales assistant Robert Mutlow.

"It can get very expensive if you can't tie your craft onto moorings, so it's an important one to keep in your pocket.

"The best knot for mooring up your boat is the bow line or the round turn two half hitches and, to tie the fenders, which protect the sides of the boat, a the clove hitch."

For £50

Boarding Ring Anti Motion Sickness Glasses
£50, Guy Cotten

■ Stop pesky travel sickness putting a damper on your boating trips with these goggles.

Jacques Beuze, export manager at Guy Cotten, said the device, which has been on the market for the past two years, had been a good seller.

"We have had mail from people to say it has saved their sailing life," he said.

"Some have gone to sea after two or three months of sickness, used these and it's cleared the sea-sickness problem.

"The Frenchman Jeannin Hubert, who designed this, was looking into Ménière's syndrome [a disorder of the inner ear] and he ended up with this to prevent sea sickness.

"You don't need to take any tablets or anything that makes you drowsy. You only need to wear them when you think you need to be sick and only for a few minutes then take them off."

Fluid in the frames recreates the natural horizon thus ensuring there is no conflict between your eyes and your inner ear, which causes sickness.

DOUGLAS BLYDE

Jacques Beuze with a pair of sickness glasses

For £500

The 3D Tender Inflatable Super Light 200
£499, Gillingham Marina

■ Leaving you £1 change from your £500, this compact dinghy is easy to transport on all your outings.

It takes just five minutes to inflate, leaving you optimum time for fun on the water.

Workshop manager Colin Upwood said the complete kit included the tender boat, cover, pump, fold-up oars, seats and a repair kit.

"It's very light and that's the great thing about it," he said.

"It's only 13kg so you can put it on the back of your boat and although some have a wooden floor, this is just pumped up, so it's quite comfortable.

"It can carry three people safely and for kids, it's safe."

Above, visitors play with remote controlled boats on an indoor pool Left, A Jetlev personal flight system is demonstrated in the marina at the 2013 London Boat Show at the Excel Centre

GETTY

For £50,000

The J-80 Boat and Versa Dock
£50,000, Key Yachting

■ A boat suitable for both racing and family outings, the J-80 can cater to a wide range of needs.

"It's the biggest-selling sports boat in England," said Gemma Dunn.

"And until the launch of the J-70, it was the biggest J Boat sold in the UK.

"It's an extremely popular boat for families. It is a yacht, but you can teach kids as it has a simple layout and it's not a scary boat.

"But most people are racers and buy it because they want to race against people in the same boat."

For £5,000,000

Sunseeker 28m
£5million+

■ The epitome of luxury, the Sunseeker 28 boasts attention to detail and a unwavering charm that may just prompt you to pull out your cheque book and pen.

Launched last year, the British built vessel has attracted much attention in the Cannes Boat Show as well as this year's London show, where one has already been snapped up.

And with cabins, catering for eight guests, and also space for four crew members, it is a perfect boat for hosting grand get-togethers.

The new Sunseeker 28m will test your bank balance at £5million+

Sales broker for Sunseeker William Burns said: "It's high-end luxury, you can see by the materials used in the yacht.

"Imagine being in the south of France, it's the perfect vessel to cruise around the French Rivera.

"It's a new design too. If you look at designs of previous ranges in comparison to this one, the cabin space and layout is giving a lot more volume – there's nothing out there like this."

Talking of buyers who have already snapped up the yacht, he added: "It's a mix. We sell all over the world and it's a lot of people who have had yachts with us in the past or those who have gone through two to three boats leading up to this.

"A lot of our clients tend to bring their own interior designers in and we do a lot of bespoke work.

"It's not just one style, you get so many different materials and it makes the boat unique to the customer.

"You don't want to be buying a standard product, it is a luxury yacht."

Landscape architects will shape waterside

PLANNING

STEPS have been taken to shape the future of Wood Wharf after architects were appointed to design its waterfront landscape.

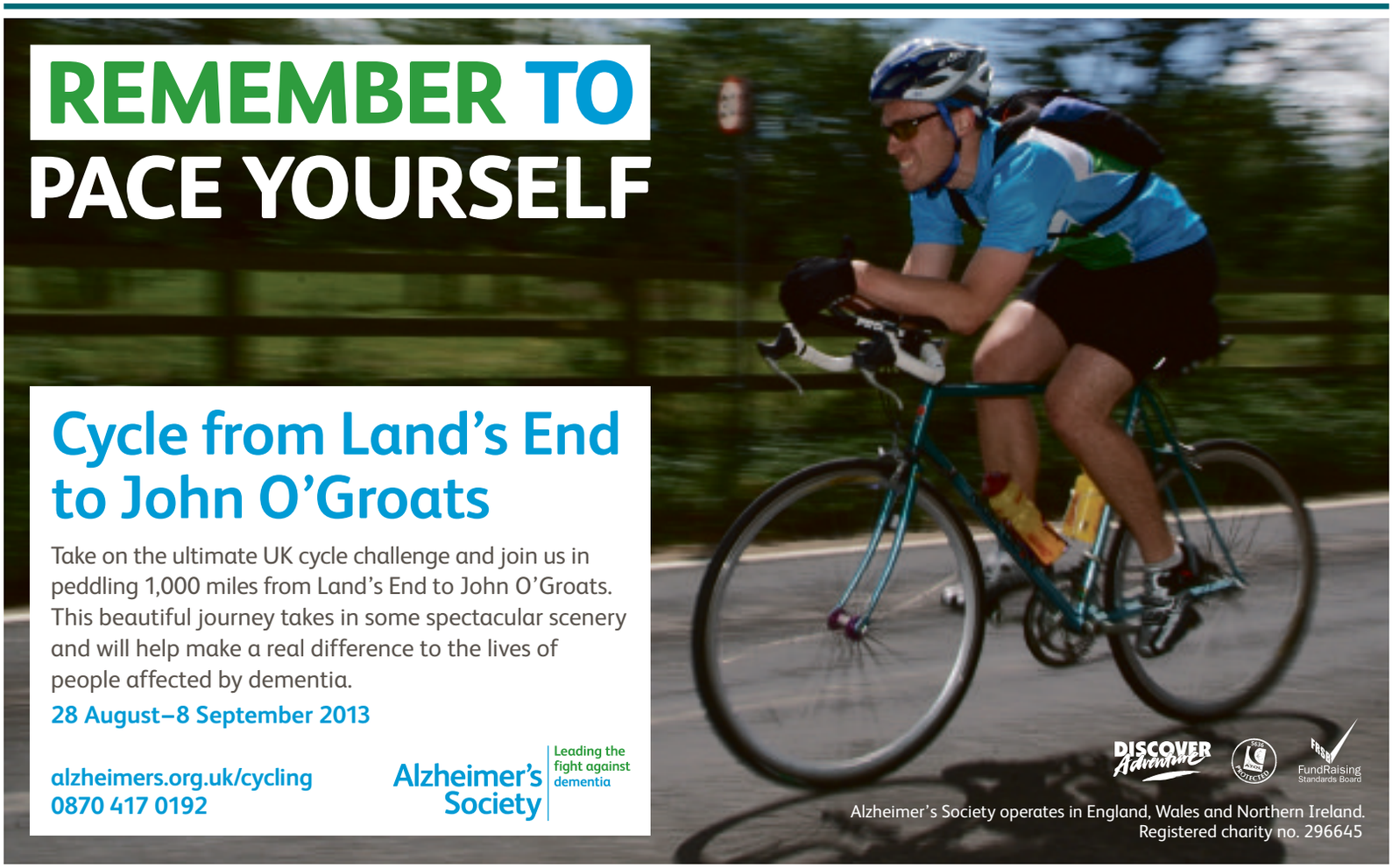
US-based Peter Walker and Partners Landscape Architecture (PWP) will transform the 20-acre area into waterside parks for retail, leisure, cultural and community uses, with European-style streets and squares.

PWP has a track-record in creating high-profile designs including the National 9/11 Memorial in New York and the Sony Center Plaza in Berlin.

It will now work with architects from Terry Farrell and Partners, who are drawing-up an outline masterplan.

Founding principal Peter Walker said: "It is a complex building and open space challenge and we are delighted to have been selected."

Robert Maguire, project director for Wood Wharf, said: "PWP will be working closely with Terry Farrell and Partners to help realise our plans for this new creative district, which will contribute to the regeneration of east London."



News

Traffic light tree seeks roots

THE Isle of Dogs' iconic Traffic Light Tree is closer to returning after plans were submitted for a new site just outside Canary Wharf.

The art installation has been in storage since its previous home at Westferry roundabout was redeveloped in December 2011.

The council has sought permission from its own planners to put the tree at Trafalgar Way roundabout near Billingsgate Market.

A public consultation will run until the end of January.

The move comes after Blackwall and Cubitt Town councillor Gloria Thienel campaigned to keep the tree, designed by French artist Pierre Vivant in 1998, in the area after planners ruled there was no room on the new Westferry roundabout.

In 2005 the structure of 75 flashing lights won a prize for best roundabout, voted for by the public.

An artist's impression of the traffic light tree in place

Cable car passenger numbers 'will grow'

TRANSPORT

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GETTY

The Emirates Airline is running at 10 per cent capacity

BOSSES of the Emirates Air Line cable car say passenger figures have met expectations in its opening months – despite standing at just 10 per cent of its overall capacity.

The link from Silvertown to North Greenwich began service in June and enjoyed a successful Olympics. However, figures have consistently dropped since then.

At a transport meeting at City Hall last week, Michelle Dix, managing director of planning at TfL, was asked by Assembly Member Tom Copley whether the crossing was hitting targets for passenger numbers.

"It was promoted to help regenerate both sides of the river," said Ms Dix. "Aside from the Olympics – because it was never promised to arrive in time for that – our first year estimates for usage, given that both sides aren't fully developed, is in line."

Tom Coplin replied: "But it's running at 10 per cent of capacity. What's the future forecasts?"

The TfL manager responded: "Our forecasts going forward are that more people will use it as the area develops."

Mr Copley, a member for the Labour Party, condemned the response as a "vague forecast".

Other participants in the discussion were also sceptical about the outlook for the cable car.

Steve Nelson of the South East London Chamber of Commerce said: "It's a fairground ride and it's great fun.

"But you would get more Londoners on it now than in the future because once you've done it there's no need to do it again."

Pressure has recently been put on TfL and Mayor Boris Johnson, who pushed for the cable car, to include the link in the London Travelcard system, thereby increasing usage.

Crossrail / Page 11

Have your say on proposed changes to the Congestion Charge

Transport for London is proposing to make the following changes:

- Introducing a new Ultra Low Emission Discount, replacing the existing Greener and Electric vehicle discounts to help improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.
- Increasing the Penalty Charge to £130 to align with other similar traffic enforcement charges.
- Removing the option to pay in shops and petrol stations. Most payments are now made by CC Auto Pay, online, by text messaging or by phone.

Visit **tfl.gov.uk/ccyourviews** or phone **0844 544 9780*** for a leaflet. We would like your views by 8 February 2013.

*Calls from BT landlines cost up to 5p per minute. Cost of calls from other lines may vary.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London

LOST CAT

'Charlie'

Have you seen this cat?

13 years old, black short hair moggy with a bit of white under his neck.
Missing since Sunday 23rd December from Isle of Dogs, River path between Island Gardens Park - Cumberland Mills - Great Eastern Pub - Police Station area, E14.
Please check your gardens / sheds / garages and help us find our beloved Charlie.
On medication, needs to be found urgently.
He is microchipped and wasn't wearing the collar. Might be injured from the fall.
Very friendly and vocal.
Reward offered for safe return.

Please contact us with any sightings or infomation

Contact:
Biba 07976 515123 *or* Paul 07977 413149

IMAGES: JACK LAWSON / DOUGLAS BLYDE

Above, Jonathan Lloyd at work on his winning design, above left

Chisellers make frozen assets from ice blocks

Wood Wharf hosts the sculpting festival for the first time

FESTIVAL

Amateurs have a bash as Brits take top prizes

Beth.Allcock
@wharf.co.uk

Majestic sculptures depicting the wonders of the universe through the glistening medium of ice delighted crowds at Wood Wharf this weekend.

Teams from across the globe spent hours chipping, carving and manning chainsaws to compete for three accolades at this year's London Ice Sculpting Festival.

The three-day event was hailed as the "biggest festival to date" and the British team gave visitors an extra reason to cheer when they were crowned champions.

The pairing of Piers Griffin and Jonathan Lloyd used a two-metre block of ice to design a sculpture of Icarus inspired by skydiver Felix Baumgartner.

Witold Borowski has a go

The title has rounded off a clean sweep for the duo, who last year secured first prize in the singles competition and public vote.

Piers said: "We used to do sculpting commercially but now it's just a bit of fun.

"The public are very enthused by it all – they are asking questions and we try to give them answers as much as possible.

"It's fantastic to have won, there are a lot of really talented competitors so it came as a surprise."

Jonathan, who has since swapped the chainsaw for the brush and easel, said: "We used to do it all the time commercially but sooner or later, you want to get out of the freezer."

In the speed sculpting singles challenge, centred on the theme of Infinity, Americans the Rev Butter and Buddy Rasmussen came out top with their design, while visitors backed Swedish sculptor Peter Soring for the public choice award.

But it wasn't just the professionals who had their chance to shine, with the show offering chances for visitors to get in on the fun.

Chef Wiltold Borowski chipped away at detailing on a penguin shape during a 15 minute masterclass.

"I made the face, the eye and the sides of its legs," he said, as the creation attracted the attention of the crowds.

"If you're a chef, you have to do things with your imagination like this."

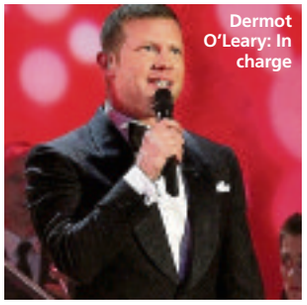
And the festival may have been a starting point for the next generation of sculpting success as five-year-old Anna Sorenson made her mark on the ice wall.

Mum Nora said: "The idea of the wall is brilliant – they see the sculptures and they would want to do the same. In Anna's head, she is as skilful as the rest.

"She took my tool and I'm just waiting for her to finish, the master at work."

Anna Sorenson, five, chips away at the ice wall

Digest


Dermot O'Leary: In charge

Dermot takes (remote) control of annual TV celebration

GREENWICH If you were to search for similarities between *Coronation Street's* Ken Barlow and *Celebrity Juice* funnyman Keith Lemon, the chances are they will be few and far between.

But as all television-lovers worth their salt will know, both Ken (Bill Roache) and Keith (Leigh Francis) are reigning champions at the National Television Awards, after successes in 2012's Serial Drama and Comedy Panel Show categories. This year's glitzy gathering, to be held at The O2 on Wednesday, again presents an almighty mash-up of much-loved stars of the small screen.

Fresh from *X-Factor* duties, Dermot O'Leary will return to the North Greenwich arena as host, also aiming to snatch the crown of Entertainment Presenter from Ant and Dec.

Newcomers *The Great British Bake Off* and *The Voice UK* will be striving to make an impact in the respective categories of Factual Entertainment and Talent, pitted against the familiar faces of *Top Gear*, *Strictly Come Dancing* and *X-Factor*.

Kim Turberville of Indigo Television, the company which makes the NTAs for ITV, said: "The NTA trophy is the award that says people love what you do. That's why it means so much to win one."

In addition to crowning television's finest, this year's NTAs will also take a look back on 2012's summer of sport in a celebration of London's Olympic heritage and legacy.

The Landmark Award will honour key members of London 2012, with the viewers submitting their stand-out Olympic moment.

The O2 Arena, Jan 23. Call Ticketmaster on 0844 847 2536 or go to theo2.co.uk/NTA2013. Watch the show on ITV from 7.30pm.

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Developer submits 75-storey tower bid

ISLE OF DOGS The landowner of the City Pride site has submitted detailed plans for the 75-storey development to Tower Hamlets Council.

Chalegrove Properties wants to put 864 residential units and 84 serviced apartments in the skyscraper.

Fans donate to hospice to back Lions veteran

MILLWALL A children's hospice in south-east London benefitted from a campaign of fundraising by Millwall supporters.

Jason Pickering and Geoff Williamson gave a £3,000 cheque to the Demelza centre on behalf of the Finlay Cooper Fund, a charity set up after former Millwall defender Colin Cooper's son died in a choking incident.

Colin, who played for Millwall between 1991 and 1993, said: "This is the second time we have helped the Demelza Hospice in recognition of my very happy years spent in the area and in recognition of the fabulous fundraising undertaken by Jason and other Millwall fans for our fund."

Police hunt man who launched racist tirade

STRATFORD Transport police have released a photo of a man they are looking for after a Somalian and his daughter were subjected to a tirade of racist abuse.

The 26-year-old victim and his 15-month-old child got on the Overground service from Stratford at 4pm on January 4.

PC Dean Percival said: "A man then stood up and approached the daughter in the pushchair, continuing his abuse and acting aggressively.

"When the man left the service at Hackney Wick, he punched the train window behind the victim around 10 times while continuing to shout and swear."

Call British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 quoting B14/LNA of 09/01/2013.

Russian banker 'wanted for questions over plot'

CANARY WHARF The Russian banker who was gunned down outside his Isle of Dogs flat is facing extradition to Moldova over an alleged plot to murder a rival, according to reports.

German Gorbuntsov is still recovering from the assassination attempt in March last year.

He is wanted to answer questions about the ordering of a contract killing against a businessman with whom he fighting for control of a bank, according to the Mail on Sunday. Gorbuntsov is fighting the bid.

How to bridge the gap?

TRANSPORT

Divisions are wider than the Thames in debate over how to span the river

Rob.Virtue
@wharf.co.uk

DOUGLAS BLYDE

A second tunnel at Silvertown is TfL's preferred method to ease congestion on the Blackwall Tunnel

If anyone needed evidence of the difficult job that is finding a solution to east London's congestion crisis they only had to attend City Hall last week.

Most came away from the transport debate – which included submissions from experts, assembly members and the public – more confused than when they arrived, giving a clue as to why the last crossing east of Tower Bridge and west of Dartford arrived in 1967 with the opening of the Blackwall Tunnel's second bore.

So while west London has it's pick of crossings those to the east – historically hindered by busy docks – have often faced gridlock in their attempts to squeeze across the Thames.

Transport for London's preferred option of a tunnel from the Greenwich Peninsula to the Royal Docks at Silvertown to offer much-needed relief for Blackwall came in for stern criticism from affected residents who predicted more pollution and congestion around their homes.

As David Quarmby of drivers' group the RAC put it: "The Blackwall Tunnel is the second most congested road in Britain. Silvertown Tunnel is a good solution but needs better dispersal to the north."

Those living around Greenwich and the A2 leading to the borough were critical on the same grounds, while some said the only way to stop river crossers driving into town was to toll the Blackwall Tunnel and make the Dartford Crossing free.

A more agreeable option was what is seen as TfL's back up plan – a bridge at Gallions Reach.

TfL's proposal is for a ferry service there before looking into the possibility of a bridge if there is demand.

But, despite Greenwich, Newham and Tower Hamlets backing that scheme over its regeneration potential for both sides of the river, councillor Linda Bailey from neighbouring Bexley said a fixed link would cause too much pollution for residents.

"We support the Mayor's proposals in principle and believe the new ferry would increase regeneration without the unacceptable local impacts of a bridge," she said.

OPTIONS

TUNNEL AT SILVERTOWN

Pros: Could relieve pressure on the Blackwall Tunnel. Would cater for overheight vehicles unable to get through Blackwall.
Cons: Much work would need to be done on roads to prevent a bottleneck of traffic in Greenwich as more vehicles would be brought to the area. Petitions have already started up against the plans.

FERRY AT GALLIONS REACH

Pros: Would replace the creaking Woolwich Ferry. Bexley Council back it. It would also give TfL more time to gauge whether a bridge should be built here.
Cons: Would still suffer from some Woolwich Ferry problems such as poor capacity and being at the mercy of the weather. Supporters of the bridge say the £100million ferry cost would be better spent on the fixed crossing.

BRIDGE AT GALLIONS REACH

(Not a preferred option on the TfL report, although not ruled out.)
Pros: Would take traffic away from congested areas in central Greenwich and Tower Hamlets. Has support from Newham, Greenwich and Tower Hamlets councils.
Cons: Greenwich's neighbouring council, Bexley, opposes on grounds of increased pollution in the area.

Docklands takes hit in 999 services

FROM PAGE ONE

But it's east London suffering the hardest. As well as Tower Hamlets losing its fire station at **Bow**, neighbouring boroughs Newham and Greenwich will lose **Silvertown** and **Woolwich**.

Hackney, meanwhile, will lose **Kingsland**, and **Leyton**, **Leytonstone** and **Whitechapel** will all lose fire engines under the plans.

London Fire Brigade's Commissioner Ron Dobson, who came up with the proposed cuts after he was ordered to slash costs by £45million over the next two years, promised to keep response times at six minutes.

He said: "We're not cut right to the bone. It's a proper contribution to the savings we need to make."

Police chiefs are having to deal with £500million less each year. The Met is shutting 65 front counters. **Isle of Dogs, Poplar** and **Bow** stations in Tower Hamlets will all be closed to the public.

In **Greenwich**, the town centre station will close, as well as those at **Woolwich** and **Thamesmead**, while in Newham, both **Stratford** and **North Woolwich's** stations are to shut.

The police are looking at alternatives for reporting crime but Metropolitan Police Federation chairman John Tully said: "What's being talked about is to have volunteers manning desks in places like Sainsbury's and the Post Office.

"If I'm a victim of crime I would want to be somewhere a lot more private than that."

However, the union does support the plans by the Mayor – who is in charge of the Met's budget – to sacrifice buildings rather than officers.

The proposals for across London include cutting senior managers from 7,000 to 6,000 and replacing them with 1,300 police officers.

65 Police counters to shut in London

The Mayor said this was the right strategy to take to ensure public safety.

"It's important to keep numbers of police officers up as it's is something the public responds to," he said at the London Assembly's budget committee on Monday. "The numbers we put out on the street make an important difference to confidence."

Mr Biggs said the Mayor had failed to protect Londoners from Government cuts.

"He's the Mayor of London, speaking up for the capital and protecting its security and prosperity. We think he's too keen to support the Government without question."

Surrey Docks Farm's newest residents were introduced this week. Mum Nessie gave birth to 12 piglets in the New Year at the venue in Rotherhithe. Farm worker Gary Jones said: "They're all doing very well and are ready to meet visitors."

Right royal Robin's nest

THE world's last steam coaster, the SS Robin, could finally get permission for a permanent mooring at a prime tourist spot in Royal Victoria Dock.

An application by the boat's trust will be heard by Newham Council's planning committee next Tuesday for it to be placed under the cable car and next to Siemens' Crystal.

If approved, it would see the world's first "fully interactive floating heritage site" given a prominent position.

The planning officer, in recommending the proposal, said it would be a "welcome addition to Royal Victoria Dock".

Under the plans the trust also wants Connaught Headhouse, recently pulled down from Connaught Bridge due to Crossrail works, re-erected and used as a visitors centre for the SS Robin.

The boat, built in 1890, has undergone £1.9million worth of works in recent years.

Jail for man who took victims for £800,000

A CONMAN will spend the next six years behind bars after he devised a scam to convince people around the world they were in line for a hefty cash sum.

Greenwich resident Patrick Bomboi Emuh, of Bromhedge, was sentenced at Southwark Crown Court last week, following a conviction on December 3.

The court heard how the 54-year-old cold-called and emailed at least 20 people telling them they had received cash windfalls from the lottery or inherited money from a distant relative.

Patrick Emuh

Emuh told the victims to pay "advance fees", "taxes" and "handling charges" – amounting to almost £800,000 – to a variety of accounts or through Western Union credit transfer, so they could access the cash.

Financial investigator Doug Ferns led the investigation, and said: "This sentence is well-deserved.

"Emuh span a convoluted and convincing web of lies to con victims out of their money."

To date, officers have retrieved £60,000 of the cash from him.

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Crossrail gets to work on station

TRANSPORT

Tunnelling under the river also gets under way

Rob Virtue and **Beth Allcock**

The next stage of Crossrail's transformation of east London begins next week when construction starts on Custom House station.

Hoardings have already gone up at the site of the former North London line stop – last used in 2006.

Workers will install a new ticket hall, a Docklands Light Railway interchange and street level access.

Laing O'Rourke will manufacture most of the station, with its transparent roof, off-site at its Sheffield factory to avoid further congestion around the busy site.

When Crossrail begins in 2018, Custom House will have up to 12 trains an hour from central London.

Crossrail will help boost accessibility at the Excel centre, in Docklands

The Excel London will be the main beneficiary of the new station.

Its chief executive David Pegler said: "We are already well connected but Crossrail will ensure that we are one of the most accessible venues in the world."

Meanwhile, Crossrail's fifth tunnelling machine, Sophia, has set off on her journey from Plumstead to North Woolwich to bore out a route under the Thames.

Measuring 110m – the equivalent of 11 London buses placed end-to-end – Sophia is specifically equipped to tackle the chalk, flint and wet ground conditions.

She will drill at the rate of 100m each week to install pre-cast concrete segments in the form of rings to form the tunnel lining.

Excavated soils will then be pumped out as liquid slurry to a special treatment plant at Plumstead, where they will be separated.

Andrew Wolstenholme, Crossrail's chief executive, said: "The benefits for south east London are huge – for the first time people living between Abbey Wood and the Royal Docks will be able to travel right through to the centre of the capital without having to change trains, bringing Canary Wharf, the West End and Heathrow closer than ever before."

An artist's impression of how the Custom House Crossrail station will look

Food

MORE REVIEWS ONLINE wharf.co.uk

Guide leaves the verdict up to you

BOOK REVIEW

101 World Whiskies…

Ian Buxton, Hachette, £12.99

Drinks connoisseur Ian Buxton doesn't believe in the "reductionist notion of the world's best whisky" and instead lists his top tipples in an apparently random order.

Titled *101 World Whiskies To Try Before You Die* this is the culmination of some arduous tasting from the expert in the follow-up to his last book in 2010.

In fact, Buxton says it's not even a guide of the best whisky, but rather a list to "seek out and try – love them or hate them".

While they may not all be to your tastes there's certainly much to be getting on with. It's packed with single malts to the blends.

Buxton throws all his knowledge, garnered from many years in the industry, at you and gives his tasting notes but the final choice is yours with a verdict box once you've found a dram.

While the Scots have the lion's share of the list, the USA has more than 20 entries and there's the odd intriguing addition such as Whisky Castle from Switzerland – made in one of a dozen distilleries in the country more famed for chocolate.

It's also worth noting Kavalan, the only Taiwanese whisky in the mix. It's only around three to four years old but "it's only going to get better," says Buxton.

Rob Virtue

Our verdict

A solid tome of inspiration

★★★★☆

JAMES PERRIN

Many of the whiskies in the book can be found at Boisdale of Canary Wharf including Royal Lochnagar Selected Reserve at £38.70 for 50ml

The Luggage Room's look has been inspired by the travelling trunks once stored within

Bogus branding is eclipsed by drinks

BAR REVIEW

Luggage Room

Grosvenor Square

The Luggage Room stumbles at the first hurdle by announcing its unobtrusive speakeasy entrance with two flaming columns. Thus the mystique, when a blonde attendant snaps back a hatch in the door to inquire whether we have "an appointment", is muted.

It's a whimper from a bygone age. But the sumptuously appointed room downstairs, all Louis Vuitton leather walls, hamam marble flooring and ostentatious tat from the Bentley Boys days, acts as an amplifier.

This isn't a bar for the bland sanitary Marriott types it screams. This is a precious relic from a time when men drove real automobiles, heavily sedated with liquor. But it feels like a tribute act.

Which is a shame because the drinks our rather-overly attentive waitresses deliver are well realised.

A Penultimate Word has too much coriander for my taste but is seductively punchy, while an Airmail is keen as sharpened steel rather than blunted by honey as feared.

By far the thing to go for though is a glossy Aviation. This violet wonder arrives pristine and slips down with dangerous ease.

As the evening draws on, the suits evaporate and things start to feel awkward. The air temperature is chilly and trips to the toilet in the crisp hotel shatter any scrap of illusion left. But for all that, the flavours almost tempt us to stay for another. Almost.

While the atmosphere and design aren't there yet, there's at least promise in the glass.

Luggage Room, Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1K 6JP, 020 7514 1507, luggageroom.co.uk.

Jon Massey

WHARF PICK

If you don't fancy making the trip over to Mayfair for a decent cocktail head down to The Parlour and ask for a Konik's Tail Martini with a twist of lemon. A great use of a top end brand to deliver classic flavours.
Go to theparlourbar.co.uk.

Our verdict

Well made drinks but bar's aesthetic is a little on the pushy side

★★★☆☆

tasting notes

BILLINGSGATE

Learn to cook a fish for supper

★ Be more creative with your fish dishes with the help of Billingsgate Seafood School.

The venue has launched an Essential Seafood Mornings course, designed to encourage people to eat more fish and boost the amount of Omega 3 in their diet.

Tutors will offer advice on how to choose fish, remove their bones, store them and get the best out of a fillet. Students will also learn to prepare a supper dish.

Squeamish chefs need not fear, as there will be no heads or eyes on the fish supplied, and recipes will be provided to take home.

The first course runs on January 21. Places are available at a discounted rate of £60 per person, held at Billingsgate Seafood School from 10.30am to 1.30pm.
Call Joanne on 020 7517 3548 or visit seafoodtraining.org to book.

DAVY'S

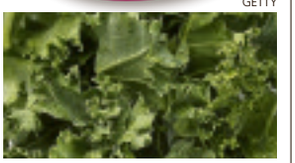
Dine on haggis in Burns' honour

★ Enjoy food to celebrate the life of Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Davy's at Canary Wharf is offering a set menu from January 21-25, of haggis and clapshot pie with a whisky and mushroom sauce, plus a glass of Davy's No 1 wine, for £12.95 per person.
Call 020 7407 9670 to book.

buy now

GETTY



Kale: This iron-rich superfood is at its best in January. It works well in stews and soups but, for a fresher flavour, sauté it with chilli and garlic, add a good glug of olive oil, salt, pepper and Grana Padano and dress pasta with it.

REEBOK SPORTS CLUB

Restaurant closes ahead of revamp

★ The restaurant within Reebok Sports Club has closed its doors until March for an extensive refurbishment.

Diane Kay, director of sales and marketing at the Canada Square gym, said: "The new restaurant will offer extended opening hours through the week and also the weekend, a new menu, extensive wine list and a fantastic bar with new dining space and fresh furniture.

"We are very excited and look forward to showcasing it to all our regular customers and members."
Go to reebokclub.co.uk.

OXFAM

Match wine and cheese for charity

★ Indulge your passion for wine and cheese at a tasting event in Blackheath.

The Oxfam shop in Tranquil Vale will be offering a selection of five drinks to match the same number of varied cheeses on January 23.

Starting at 7pm, tickets are priced at £10.
Call 020 8852 6884 to book.

Fashion

Experts vote for must-have products

Beth.Allcock
@wharf.co.uk

The VeryFirstTo Awards, held at Mansion Hall last week rewarded 2013's most luxurious products to help you stay ahead of the game.

A judging panel, including Giles Deacon, Poppy Delevinge and Wayne Hemingway, picked out the winners and we've chosen our top four to help readers stay at the cutting edge:

MESS ABOUT

Take to the waves in the Z Boat by Zaha Hadid, circa £290,000 zaha-hadid.com

LIGHT UP

Get an instant hit of style by wiring in this Blue Marmalade halo lamp, £750 shop.bluemarmalade.co.uk

IMAGE CONCIOUS

Get snapping with the Leica M camera, £5,100 (body only) us.leica-camera.com

BE SEEN

Taking in the view from The Shard in London Bridge, £24.95 theviewfromtheshard.com

5 signs that you are addicted to fashion

Angela Clarke reveals the things you should be looking out for if you think you might be developing an unhealthy obsession

After spending 10 years working in the industry, Angela – who writes *Blonde's Eye View* for *The Wharf* and *Confessions Of A Fashionista* for the *Daily Mail* – thinks she's figured out when you're dangerously addicted to fashion:

■ Spending £800 on a handbag seems normal to you

A handbag is the lynchpin of a woman's wardrobe. Maggie Thatcher's is iconic, Carrie Bradshaw's are all in my closet.

The right bag is an investment. Alternatively, you've just "invested" £800 on something you'll fill with sanitary towels, old receipts and used tissues. You could have spent that on a weekend away or, you know, a life.

■ Your lunch consists of a raw carrot

Eating healthily and exercising regularly is good for you. But when you start staring longingly at sticks of celery, and imagining your waist was only the width of the vegetable, you need to take stock.

Lots of stock – preferably with stew and dumplings in it. Are you whittling away to nothing? Are you sniffing cake, instead of eating it? Half dead is never a good look. Fashion comes with a side of fries.

■ Your dog is a diva

I'm going to break this to you gently – you are not Karl Lagerfeld, and your pampered pet is not his cat Choupette.

There are some mentally unbalanced people who insist their designer doggies sit front row, fly first class and hang out in their own five star hotel suites.

Do you really want to be one of them? Your dog is not the reincarnation of Coco Chanel. Your dog does not need a manicure. Your dog eats its own poo.

■ You can't remember the last time you didn't wear Spanx

Spanx – the suck-it-all in miracle underwear that streamlines, in a boa constrictor way, your bumpy bits.

Struggling with the hook-and-eye fastenings on a body after a few drinks in the pub loos is a fashionista rite of passage. So attached to your magic knickers, you're tempted to wear them to yoga? That's a downward dog don't, darling.

■ You buy shoes you can't walk in

Yes, they make you a foot taller. Yes, they make you look slimmer. And, yes they are in the sale.

But when you walk in them you resemble a newborn giraffe, on ice, pissed. You cannot style out face-planting.

After working in the fashion industry for a decade, Angela Clarke thinks she can spot style addiction

WIN a signed copy of Angela's book

Confessions of a Fashionista – The Good, the Bad And The Botox **by Angela Clarke is published by Virgin Books, priced £7.99, and** ***The Wharf*** **has five signed copies to give away.**

For a chance to win just answer this simple question: How many years has Angela worked in the fashion industry?

To enter go to wharf.co.uk and click the competitions link

COPYCAT

Beth Allcock gets Amanda's look with a healthy dose of studs, beading and lip colour

Adesse one shoulder short dress in pink, £87.50 aftershockplc.com

Half bow wedge, £49.50 marksand spencer.com

Limited collection lipstick in rose, £5 marksand spencer.com

AMANDA SEYFRIED

REUTERS

HOT

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Health

Paddle and pedal on the river for a healthier body

WATERSPORT

Hop in a kayak to make the most of the Wharf's watery location

Sarah Graham
The Wharf

It's impossible not to have water on the brain working in Canary Wharf. The estate is completely surrounded, filtering its inhabitants over narrow bridges or through tight tunnels at the end of each day.

So imagine a way to escape the shackles of the land and get fit at the same time. Exhibitors at the Tullet Prebon London Boat Show believe kayaking might provide the answer.

A basic beginner's kayak will set you back around £300, with paddles included, according to Bruce Hunter, from Canoe and Kayak Direct.

More advanced, white water kayaks require some training, but beginners can get started in a simple model anywhere there's access to water.

"There are kayaking clubs everywhere," Mr Hunter said. "In London you can just follow the River Thames."

A whole range of accessories can be bought – from fishing rods and backrests, to roof racks for easy transportation – but Mr Hunter advises safety first.

Above, one of Hobie Cat Centre's kayaks, which also feature pedals. Right, the firm's Kris Robertshaw

"You shouldn't go in the water without either a life jacket or buoyancy aid," he said.

Life jackets, which cost around £40-50 have sufficient buoyancy to keep you afloat if unconscious, while buoyancy aids are cheaper, at £25, and are buoyant enough as long as you can swim.

As a work-out, kayaking is great for upper body strength but, while your arms do all the paddling, your legs don't do much work.

Unless, that is, you splash out on a Hobie kayak, with foot pedals, from The Hobie Cat Centre.

These have Mirage Drive, a pedalling system that leaves your hands free, with a handle to steer, although paddles are still supplied.

"For a full work-out, you can use your arms and your legs," said Kris Robertshaw of Hobie Cat Centre.

These kayaks will set you back a bit more, with an average price of around £2,000.

The smallest and cheapest is the Sport, at £1,700 in comparison to what Kris described as the "star of the show" or Tandem Island – a large kayak that combines the propulsion system with paddles and a sail, for a full workout at £4,995.

For fishing fans, the £2,640 Hobie Pro Angler is the "complete fishing model," according to Mr Robertshaw.

Mirage Drive makes it hands free so you can stop and fish, or even lift the seat and stand up.

TRY IT OUT

■ **Docklands Sailing and Watersports Centre in Westferry Road run Kayak Skills Courses for £150 as well as Monday night sessions priced at £15 for non members. Call 020 7537 2626 or go to dswc.org for details.**

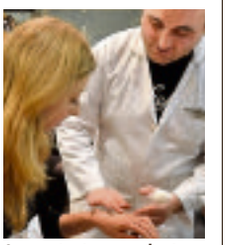
Cleansing the scourge of poor skincare habits

REVIEW
Kiehl's
Canada Place

My skincare regime, or lack of it, verges on embarrassing. As I edge ever closer to that quarter-of-a-century mark, using just a facial wipe to clean off the day's make-up doesn't really wash. I needed help.

So, on my visit to Kiehl's pop-up shop in Canada Place, it was reassuring to have store manager James Pawson-Stewart outline key products I should be using for the holy trinity of skincare – cleanse, moisturise and tone. The firm offers all customers a complimentary consultation and free samples.

A quick chat was followed by a physical test with sensors on the forehead and cheek. My skin was judged "normal" and I left with two samples, a moisturiser and a cleanser, to try at home. I was impressed. The cleanser made my pores feel tighter and gave my skin a natural glow.



James tests a product on Beth's skin at the pop up
Kiehl's to open Wharf store Business / Page 50

I found the moisturiser effective and nourishing but a little greasy. James had warned that too much might prompt oiliness, so perhaps I was at fault. As for binning my facial wipes and religiously cleansing twice a day, I'm almost sold.
Go to kiehls.co.uk.
Beth Allcock

Our verdict
Well worth popping in for a consultation
★★★★☆

TOP tips

GETTY

■ **Vary your diet: Sick of salad? Getting tired of extreme healthy eating is normal come the third week in January. Rather than falling off the wagon introduce some variety into your diet – fill up on comforting, healthy stodge – a jacket potato at lunch and chilli con carne with brown rice for dinner. But watch portion sizes.**

FITNESS WITH LAURA WILLIAMS

Get the look: Anne Hathaway

The *Les Miserables* actress went to the extreme for her latest role.

How she did it: Anne had to go to great lengths to drop 25lbs from her already slender frame in order to play the role of a destitute single mum in the film version of the musical.

As well as eating tiny portions of food, on the advice of co-star Hugh Jackman, the actress ran miles on an empty stomach.

Do it for yourself: While much of what Anne did to lose the weight for her role is a little extreme (and unnecessary) for most of us, the science continues to support the case for running on empty if you're looking to lose weight.

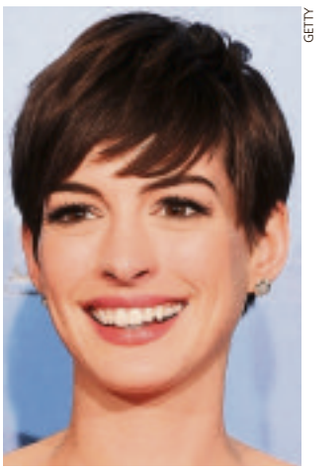
Traditionally it was bodybuilders who championed not eating before a workout.

The idea behind this is that if the body has little or no carbohydrate to draw on, it mobilises fat to be used as fuel.

Decades on and many debates later, the science supports this theory – a Belgian study compared two groups of exercisers, one trained on empty, the other ate breakfast.

The non-breakfast eaters lost more weight and became more sensitive to insulin (this is when your cells respond well to insulin).

So, the overall verdict? If you're not prone to lightheadedness and nausea and looking to boost your January shape-up efforts, try skipping the porridge and then hitting the gym.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Go to Laura's website at laurawilliamsonline.co.uk, email questions to laura@laurawilliamsonline.co.uk or follow @laurafitness on Twitter

Q&A

What's the best class for me to do if I'm looking to lose weight and tone up?

There are many good classes that will help you shape up.

While classes such as BodyPump and other resistance-based programmes will help you build muscle mass, the chances are they won't challenge your fitness sufficiently, so it's good to get a mixture of both.

My personal favourites for time-poor clients are spinning, circuit training and similar boot camp-style classes.

These may not be the sexiest sounding, or the most popular but they tend to tick the most boxes.

What's On

GIG
Donny & Marie
The O2

Donny and Marie Osmond kick off their UK tour at The O2 on Sunday, marking the 50th anniversary of their entertainment careers.

Following a run of sold-out performances in Las Vegas, the showbiz siblings will perform 11 dates in the UK and Ireland.

The tour promises a lively mix of the brother and sister act's classic hits, spanning five decades that have seen Donny and Marie collectively release more than 70 albums.

■ *Jan 20, doors 6.30pm, £52.25-£85.25, theo2.co.uk.*

EXHIBITION
Murder In The Library
British Library

The British Library investigates "whodunnit", with an exhibition on the crime fiction genre, which accounts for a third of book sales.

Murder In The Library explores the history and development of crime and detective fiction, from the 19th century to the present day, and features favourites including Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle.

There's a host of artefacts on display, from manuscripts and artwork to rare audio recordings.

■ *From Jan 18-May 12, FREE, all day, bl.uk.*

TALK
Michael Winterbottom
Barbican

Director Michael Winterbottom watches and discusses his new film *Everyday* which stars John Simm and Shirley Henderson and focusses on a film separated by jail.

Filmed over five years, *Everyday* uses the repetitions and rhythms of everyday life to explore how a family copes with separation. In between prison visits, Karen and the children battle on with everyday life and despite disasters and trials the family still manages to pull together.

■ *Jan 17, 8.45pm, various prices, barbican.org.uk.*

Writer weaves unsettling myth from modern worry

INTERVIEW

From having it all to ending up with nothing, play tackles a woman's dilemma

Sarah Graham
The Wharf

Leyla Nazli was one of the first Royal Court 50 writers chosen to celebrate the theatre's anniversary year in 2006

Olivier Award-winning actress Kathryn Hunter returns to the Arcola Theatre in a surreal, mythical production called *Mare Rider*.

Written by the theatre's executive producer Leyla Nazli, the play is inspired by modern women's fears and desires about childbirth and motherhood.

Described as "unsettling and deeply moving", *Mare Rider* tells the story of migrant woman Selma who is taken to Homerton hospital for an early birth.

Nazli said: "She has grown up with the myth of a character called Elka, whose job is to steal and eat new born babies, but she doesn't think the character will visit her in Hackney."

Elka, played by Hunter, is "a mythical character, very eccentric and very poetically written – she comes from another world".

When Selma wakes up, having lost her baby, she is visited by Elka and believes the mythical character is responsible.

"It's a surreal scenario – you don't know if it's a dream or if it's real," said Nazli of the fantastical journey the two women begin, a journey which features mermaids, seahorses and mares ridden at night.

Elka's night-time mare rides are an unsettling metaphor for the woman's nightmare, inspired by a myth Nazli grew up with in eastern Turkey.

"I think it's an Irish myth, but growing up in east Turkey the myth was called Elka and it stuck with me," she said. "It represents an early form of feminism.

W What was your inspiration?

"A lot of my friends have careers and don't have partners or children yet and are wishing or waiting for the right person."

"A lot of my friends are in their mid-30s or early-40s, they've worked on their careers and don't have partners or children yet and are wishing or waiting for the right person, or having problems because they've left it too late. I was inspired by this issue.

She admits she has no answers. "Modern society takes our instincts away – by the time you've established your career, your home and all this it's too late," she said.

"It's our right to fight for our careers and our freedom, but at what cost?"

Mare Rider follows Nazli's first play, *Silver Birch House*, which was produced at the Arcola in 2007.

After co-founding the theatre in 2000, Nazli first began writing a few years later.

Her surreal second play is part of an EU-funded project called Europe Now – a collaboration between theatres in the UK, Sweden, Turkey, Holland and Germany.

As part of the project, *Mare Rider* will go to Sweden after its run at the Arcola, where it will tour five Swedish cities, before moving on to Berlin.

■ *Mare Rider, from Jan 22-Feb 16, Arcola Theatre, arcolatheatre.com.*

Doctor's on call for regular appointments

FILM
Doctor Who season
BFI Southbank

Time Lords might roam free around the cosmology and chronology, but for mere mortals, 50 years is a milestone.

And that's the span that *Doctor Who* has been a fixture (with some interruptions) on the small screen.

To celebrate the half-century of our favourite Dalek battler, BFI Southbank is hosting events once a month throughout the year, featuring each of the 11 Doctors in chronological order.

Matt Smith is the latest Doctor

Fans will get the chance to see episodes plucked from deep in the recesses of the BBC archive with question and answer sessions following with people instrumental in creating the Doctor's universe.

The first of these was held last Saturday and was the debut from 1963, starring William Hartnell. Titled *The First Doctor: An Unearthly Child*, it saw fans introduced to The Tardis and the Doctor's first human companions, Ian and Barbara.

Episodes featuring the Doctor portrayed by Patrick Troughton and then Jon Pertwee are next to be screened, with Troughton's *Tomb Of The Cyberman* already scheduled for February 9.

Doctor Who's executive producer Carole Skinner said: "We're delighted that in this 50th year for the show we have such brilliant support from the BFI for our celebration of *Doctor Who's* cultural heritage

"Some of the stories we're going to show are thrilling, surprising, funny and just plain classic TV."

Further episodes and dates are to be confirmed at later dates. Tickets cost £10 for non-BFI members and £8.50 for members.

Go to bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Rob Virtue

What's On

MORE REVIEWS ONLINE wharf.co.uk

CD

Arc
Everything, Everything
★★★☆☆

The Manchester-based four-piece are back with the long-awaited follow-up to 2010's Mercury Prize-nominated debut *Man Alive*.

The alt-pop outfit's latest offering, *Arc*, has the same electro sensibilities as their debut but with a more complex maths-rock structuring.

Opening track *Cough Cough*, already released as a single last year, is a sweeping indie-tech delight with passionate hooks and a surprisingly attractive hip-hop influence.

The album as a whole, however, appears to have buckled under the weight of its own expectations. *Torso Of The Week* appears self-indulgent and borders on the annoying with overly sentimental vocals.

Nevertheless, *The Peaks* and *Radiant* balance the good from the bad with closing track *Don't Try* satisfying the length of the wait.

Holly McKenzie

DVD

Lawless
(18) 111mins
★★★★☆

Forrest Bondurant (Tom Hardy) and his brothers Howard (Jason Clarke) and Jack (Shia LaBeouf) are bootleggers in the mountains of Franklin County.

The siblings' business empire threatens to crumble when sadistic Special Deputy Charley Rakes (Guy Pearce) arrives from Chicago on a mission to shut down the distilleries.

As love blossoms between Jack and preacher's daughter Bertha Minnix (Mia Wasikowska), Rakes sets about dismantling the operation.

Set in early '30s Virginia and adapted from Matt Bondurant's novel *The Wettest County In The World*, Lawless is a gritty Prohibition-era thriller which pulls few punches.

Hardy delivers a brooding central performance, maintaining his hard-man image around Jessica Chastain's emotionally battered love interest.

Damon Smith

Django's swaggering assault on the senses

SCREEN
Django Unchained
(15) 136mins

Little wonder director Quentin Tarantino squirmed under scrutiny over movie violence.

In attempting to hold the high ground he had seized by claiming credit for dragging America's slave-owning past into the public arena he then painted himself into a corner.

He tried to insert simplistic gradations between "cathartic violence" and "entertaining violence" which can only translate as "violence that hurts baddies – necessary" and "violence that hurts goodies – worthy".

His revisionist Western (set in the South) contains much of both flavours and whether it's slaves set on by dogs or slave-masters castrated by shot, the result is just the same and usually found on walls and in puddles.

His needless justifications attempt to elevate a gore-fest beyond its very simple roots as a revenge movie.

In many ways, this is a companion piece to *Inglourious Basterds*. In both, the traditional opponents are redrawn and replaced with a new paradigm.

In the war-time sprawl, the Germans were defeated by the Jews. In the over-long but audacious *Django Unchained*, the plantation owners are done for by a former slave.

The director's impatience with the argument is understandable. If you're going to see a Quentin Tarantino movie, you know what's coming.

Lavish, unfurling scenes in which razor sharp characters have time to present their philosophies before unleashing hell on their foes.

It's all done with a swagger, lashings of scorn, a respectful tilt at genre, a painful self indulgence and a brazen disdain for queasiness.

Dr King Schultz, as played wonderfully by Christoph Waltz, is, therefore, the perfect QT character. The German bounty hunter has a gift of the gab as well as a dead-eye with a gun.

When he buys slave Django (the underpowered but charismatic Jamie Foxx) to help him track down his next bounty he finds a protege and a purpose. For Django's slave wife (Kerry Washington) is named after a character in a German myth, a princess atop a hill for whom an adventurer must go through hellfire to rescue.

And so the quest to free Broomhilda is set and brings, by circuitous routes (there are lots of circuitous routes) the charming doctor and his taciturn sidekick to the plantation of ruthless boy king Calvin Candie (another star turn by Leonardo DiCaprio).

But the ruse that brings them to the bargaining table comes under scrutiny by repulsive house slave Stephen (rubberised Samuel L Jackson) – and their treachery will not go unchallenged.

Yet again, Tarantino has mined his love of cinema to create a brilliant, infuriating and rewarding event.

Giles Broadbent

Spiral Notebook / Page 51

Leonardo DiCaprio plays ruthless plantation owner Calvin Candie

Jamie Foxx plays freed slave turned bounty hunter Django

Our verdict
Stylish and full of swagger, *Django Unchained* is Tarantino unleashed
★★★★☆

Spotlight
Hampstead Theatre

An all-star cast bring Di And Viv and Rose to the Hampstead Theatre.

Gina McKee, Anna Maxwell Martin and Tamzin Outhwaite are three women who meet at university where life is fun and living intense. Together they feel unassailable. Amelia Bullmore's play is a funny and thoughtful exploration of friendship's impact on life, and life's impact on friendship.

Until Feb 23, hampsteadtheatre.com.

SCREEN
The Sessions
(15) 93mins

When journalist Mark (John Hawkes), paralysed from the neck down, is asked to pen a feature on sex and the disabled, he is introduced to married sex surrogate Cheryl (Helen Hunt).

An intense bond forms between the two, and after each meeting, Cheryl returns to compile her notes before cuddling up to her husband Josh (Adam Arkin), who is accepting of her unusual choice of profession.

However, when Mark pens Cheryl a poem to express his deep feelings, Josh loses his veneer of cool, fearful that professional and personal boundaries could be crossed.

★★★★☆

SCREEN
V/H/S
(18) 113mins

Adam Wingard, David Bruckner, Ti West, Glenn McQuaid, Joe Swanberg and Radio Silence direct this anthology of horror shorts.

In the framing device, entitled *Tape 56*, a client asks a gang of crooks to break into the house of an old man and steal a VHS cassette.

Without any idea which tape they should take, the thieves watch the cassettes one by one and are greeted by graphic and apparently genuine recordings which chill them to the bone and hint at undiscovered nightmares that lurk within the house.

★★★☆☆

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Business

Your Money

Ombudsman recruits to handle surge of PPI cases

FINANCE

THE Financial Ombudsman Service, based in Marsh Wall, is taking on an extra 1,000 case workers to handle a rise in insurance mis-selling claims.

Around 1,500 people are investigating payment protection insurance but the service has anticipated 250,000 new complaints in 2013/14 as well as resolving an outstanding 245,000.

The service has already taken on 1,000 new employees and a recruitment drive for the next tranche of London-based jobs has already begun.

Around £13billion has been put aside by financial institutions to compensate customers for mis-sold PPI policies but there is little sign that the surge is dying down.

The FOS outlined its plans in its annual report which said: "Businesses we have spoken to have suggested that consumers will continue to bring large numbers of PPI complaints for the next few years which would mean that PPI is also likely to remain a significant part of our caseload."

It aims to increase to 5,000 a week the number of cases it resolves, up from 3,500. The process is not helped by accusations that banks are dragging their feet.

Deputy chief ombudsman Tony Boorman said: "While we see some businesses using complaints positively to improve customer service, many continue to frustrate their customers with delays and inconvenience."

Advice for entrepreneurs

MAKE the dream of becoming your own boss a reality with the help of a free networking event.

Whitechapel's Idea Store is the venue for Start Small Think Big, an event hosted by Tower Hamlets Borough Council.

Budding entrepreneurs will be able to chat to industry experts about how to start or grow a small business, as well as attending a masterclass and workshops, on January 23.

The event runs from noon until 4pm. Go to ideastore.co.uk to book.

TM in talks on title's future

NEWSPAPER publisher Trinity Mirror, publisher of *The Wharf*, has confirmed it is in early talks with investors about a possible revamp of the *Sunday People*.

Former *Sunday Express* editor Sue Douglas is leading a consortium which is looking to invest £10million in the Canary Wharf-based title.

Trinity Mirror said: "Discussions are at a very preliminary stage."

Kiehl's trades in skincare pop-up for permanent shop

RETAIL

Apothecary of the old school plans to offer treatments as well as products

Beth.Allcock
@wharf.co.uk

A skin and haircare brand steeped in American apothecary heritage will soon be adding Canary Wharf to its list of London stores.

Kiehl's pop-up shop in Canada Place, created in December, was only ever intended to provide a temporary home for its vast collection of products and treatments. But the company's olde-worlde charm will remain on the estate.

For the brand is set to delight its customers with a permanent base in Jubilee Place, scheduled to open this spring.

Explaining the business reasoning behind the new store, which will fill an vacant outlet next to Itsu, James Rickards, general manager of Kiehl's UK and Ireland, said: "We've been growing our business and opening new stores with huge success for several years now, but we don't want to open just anywhere. It's important to us that we find a home that reflects our brand values.

"The new store will take the best of east-side village New York and bring it to Canary Wharf."

And James Pawson-Stewart, store manager of the pop-up and new outlet, said the response from Wharfers had already been positive.

"The pop-up has been very busy," he said. "We have found that about 80 per cent know Kiehl's already and have given very positive feedback – people are saying getting a store in this area makes it so much easier for them to come and get their products.

"It's been a very good response, very positive, as we weren't sure how it was going to be. For us, it is always so good when you go to a new area and talk to new people and you are going to be accepted."

The brand started life as an apothecary in New York in 1851, with further generations of the family taking a more scientific route to create products representing a blend of cosmetic, herbal, medicinal and pharmaceutical knowledge.

"We have been selling products for 161 years, which stands us apart straight away," said James, who has been working for Kiehl's for the past seven years.

"There is a lot of history and there have been some products that we are selling now that have been on the market since the '20s, like our original musk.

"When people know they have been sold for that long it gives them a confidence. They know they are good items."

And Kiehl's product range will be supplemented with space for its full services in the new store, including hand and arm massages, mini facials, events and more room within which to conduct its complimentary skin care consultations offered to all customers.

And the move will also kick off an exciting 11 months for the Jubilee Place mall, as it prepares to welcome an additional layer of fashion stores and a restaurant, which will be opening in November.

"It's nice for us to herald the opening for it in a way," James added. "The whole buzz will be nice."

Go to kiehls.co.uk.

Pop-up store manager James Pawson-Stewart in Canary Wharf

What does all that history mean?

"When people know they have been sold for that long it gives them a confidence. They know they are good items."

James Pawson-Stewart
Store manager

Inflating the scale of the squeeze with RPI

YOUR MONEY

If you are a commuter, a phone owner, or have a radiator somewhere in your house, chances are you will have recently received a letter advising you of an upcoming tariff change.

National Rail has increased fares by an average of 3.9 per cent, Transport for London has increased public transport rates by 4.2 per cent, while O2 has advised customers of a 3.2 per cent rise in its ironically named fixed-rate tariffs by the end of February, and all six of the major energy providers have increased their tariffs by a whopping 7.6 per cent on average.

All these price hikes have been made "in line with inflation", citing the much-discussed 3.2 per cent Retail Price Index (RPI) figure released in November. But what does this mean?

RPI is one of two estimated measures of the day-to-day cost of living. The other is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which uses the same general indicators as the RPI but it does not include the changing value of housing. The CPI estimates are calculated geometrically, while RPI is calculated arithmetically, meaning that the CPI is always a little lower than RPI – in November, CPI was 2.7 per cent.

The RPI has traditionally been used by the Government to calculate interest on gilt investments and public pensions, so a rise in RPI will always be reflected in the public purse. This almost changed recently when the Office for National Statistics made its announcement on RPI, ultimately deciding to maintain the current rate.

The news was largely welcomed by economists and pensions specialists, but on the downside, it means that service providers can continue to raise tariffs at the upper end of the "inflation" scale.

An ongoing pay freeze across the public sector, and high unemployment rates across the country, means that many households will not be offsetting the rising bills with a similarly modified payslip.

Philip Bray, a retirement and pensions specialist at Investment Sense, says: "The combination of low interest rates and high inflation is a perfect storm for savers."

If it feels like the walls are closing in on your finances, you are certainly not alone, but there are a few measures you can take to wring the most value out of your money, including switching your provider, car-sharing and shopping for low brand alternatives.

Kathryn Gaw

Comment

When did snow stop being fun and start being a chore?

When Master A woke up on Monday and saw the first signs of snow he couldn't contain his excitement. He jumped up and down on his bed for five minutes, giddy with excitement shouting: "It's snowing, it's snowing, it's snowing..."

My reaction to the news was the polar opposite. My head buried back under the duvet, groaning at the prospect of a miserable journey into work.

On setting out on the school run our differing moods continued. Master A embracing the winterland wonder, delighting at the snowflakes tickling his face; me rejecting it, pulling my coat collar up higher, ski hat down lower to protect myself from the white stuff.

I detest the cold.

Trudging over to the car all I could see was a chilly 10-minute ice-scraping job on the windscreen.

Master A, on the other hand, was looking at ammunition for his next assault. He raced over and began pawing at the thin white layer that had settled on the car.

I watched as he gleefully moulded the little snow there was into a small, odd-shaped sphere. When it was finished he excitedly looked around for a target. As no-one else was around his focus turned to me. I saw the twinkle go out of his eyes and the snowball silently drop to the floor.

"I know you don't like the snow, mummy."

When did I lose that sense of excitement, the magic that is associated with the arrival of snow? When did I only see grey sludge instead of shimmering, sparkling white flakes?

I went over to Master A and knelt down beside him. I picked up the little ball of ice he'd so lovingly crafted and held it in my hand.

"Who said I don't like snow!"

Splat! A bullseye right in the middle of Master A's tummy. A squeal of delight.

The electric windscreen heaters left to do their job, Master A and I let the battle commence. It was an exhilarating, if wet, start to the day.

Working Mum, remembering to sometimes look at the world through a five-year-old's eyes.

WORKING MUM

TABITHA RONSON

POLITICAL NOTES & VIEWS

By Lutfur Rahman

Investments despite times of austerity

When I stood for election as Mayor of Tower Hamlets, I promised my administration would re-generate and re-open the famous Poplar Baths, which closed back in 1988.

My opponents said that it couldn't be done. But this week we moved a step closer to starting the £36million development, which will restore the Grade II Victorian building to its former glory, while offering two new swimming pools and some of the best sports facilities available anywhere in London.

We agreed to work with a new partner, whose plans will also include 100 new affordable homes and a community centre, which will be built near the former Haileybury/Dame Colet House sites.

> "We moved a step closer to restoring the baths

■ Despite the wave of Government cuts our SATS and GCSE school results are well above the national average.

We're also exploring the potential for a scheme to support people with the burden of university costs and we brought in the new and popular Mayor's Education Allowance.

In addition, in our borough, home care is still provided free and we were one of the first to adopt the London Living Wage. Last year we also helped pioneer a new Energy Co-operative designed to lower energy bills.

These are very real achievements, achievements many thought would not be possible in these austere times.

Executive mayor, Tower Hamlets Council

FILM

Bloodless feud solves nothing

■ So that's a no-score draw then in the bloodless slug-fest between Quentin Tarantino and Channel Four's Krishnan Guru-Murthy over the director's views on movie violence.

Tarantino was within his rights to refuse to answer a question about a possible link. Guru-Murthy was within bounds to press the topic.

They both appeared unruffled by the exchange and both of them got footage that went viral so that's a tick in the promo box for their respective screen vehicles. Home in time for tea.

> *We are made of violence. Our DNA is a knotty streak of plundered nucleotides*

But to occupy Tarantino silence for the sake of argument. If there is a concensus that concedes to a link between movies and violence, what then?

What's the response? Insulate? Ban all movies then all songs and then books, and guns, knives and blunt instruments (there go the tubas) then all sharp edges on coffee tables, and all crows that peck at road kill, and the deserts that kill ickle baby elephants and stairwells that nobble vicars, and grazed knees from bike falls and sticks that become swords and rhinoplasty and gravity and evolution and entropy and death.

Director Quentin Tarantino accepts his Best Screenplay Golden Globe

SPIRAL NOTEBOOK

By Giles Broadbent

If you're ready to tip into violence, you'll tip regardless of a prompt.

If you're never going to tip, a session with Tarantino is never going to turn you. (I spent much of Christmas watching the relentless genocide in *Lord Of The Rings* – made me sick of death, not hungry for Orc blood.)

And for those susceptible either way, well, here's the truth of it. Life is dumb luck and adventure. You can't condition a society to just to coral the mindless few, you can only build reasonable safeguards and shepherd in lost souls whenever they reveal themselves.

We are made of violence. We come from stars that were ripped apart, we evolved from destruction and hardwired supremacy.

Our DNA is a knotty streak of plundered nucleotides. Life is violence and conflict – restraining it, escaping it, embracing it, eschewing it, exploiting it, policing it.

Eradicating it is not really an option – so sit back and enjoy the show. Or stay home.

Can I make a suggestion regarding promotion of the under-fire Emirates Air Line? Get it on the *EastEnders* credits. The camera spirals out from just that location at the beginning and the sight of cabins trundling across the river can only remind people of its delights.

Listmania Gadgets for your iOS device

Got an iPad or Apple mobile device for Christmas. Now you really need to kit yourself out with the necessaries

1

Jukebox Dock, £89.95 • Speakers with retro feel

2

Docs2Go Scanner £149.99 • Scan straight to your iPad

3

Speck iGuy Case, £22.97 • For kids but you drop yours too

4

3D Movie Viewer, £11.99 • Watch YT3D clips on iPhone 4S

5

Logicool Solar Keyboard, £107.62 • Eliminate typing woe

Tomorrow

... we'll be spreading germs

Life on Mars

A resilient bacteria has been shown in lab conditions to be able to adapt to the harsh conditions on Mars, with significant implications for any future visit.

Serratia liquefaciens is found in human skin, hair and lungs but thrives in low pressure, cold and in an atmosphere rich in carbon dioxide raising fears over possible contamination – and the prospect of indigenous life evolving.

Nasa's Curiosity Mars is currently looking for conditions that could have supported microbial life.

Today

App Of The Week

Angry Birds Star Wars

Rovio has managed to breath new life into the Angry Birds franchise – and it's near perfection. Set in a galaxy far, far away, use your lightsaber and Jedi powers to blast away the pigtroopers. With new worlds and new weapons, there's plenty to differentiate this game from its predecessor.

Free from Google Play and iTunes

Yesterday

By Wharfinger

William Laud

On January 10, 1645, the Archbishop of Canterbury William Laud, a staunch Royalist, was taken from his Tower of London jail, where he had spent much of the English Civil War, and was beheaded on Tower Hill.

There was little evidence of treason, the accusation from the Long Parliament of 1640 and following a trial without verdict his Puritan opponents passed a bill of attainder, which declared him guilty without judicial process. He was 71.

Images

REUTERS

1

Andrew Pieris, a fashion blogger and stylist, poses outside London Collections: Men

REUTERS
Suzanne Plunkett
BRITAIN

2

An orangutan enjoys an ice lolly during a hot day in Rio de Janeiro this month

REUTERS
Sergio Moraes
BRAZIL

3

Lindsey Vonn from the US speeds down the course during the first training event for the Alpine Skiing World Cup downhill ski race in St Anton earlier this week

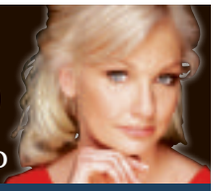
REUTERS
Dominic Ebenbichler
UNITED STATES

Take 5

Keep your brain ticking over with our selection of coffee break puzzles

Stars

With Claire Petulengro



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 19
For more call 0905 817 2070

Romance is likely to provide you with more satisfaction than friendship but will the person you like be thinking along the same lines? Ditch mixed signals.

PISCES
FEB 20-MAR 20
For more call 0905 817 2071

Arguments arise easily. You'll feel silly when you look back at events with more clarity. A friend for life is made through work soon, so watch out for it.

ARIES
MAR 21-APR 21
For more call 0905 817 2060

Financial aspects require you to be extra careful. You should not embark on any joint financial ventures. Creative projects look to be costing too much too.

TAURUS
APR 22-MAY 21
For more call 0905 817 2061

You're talking for the sake of it and you would be far better to listen to what others are saying. By doing so you can get a feel for the emotions of friends.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
For more call 0905 817 2062

Problems concerned with the law or official matters may well have seen you losing sleep. The problem is Gemini, you don't seem to know all the facts.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 23
For more call 0905 817 2063

You're taking more of an interest in the home and security. I know you didn't feel sure if what you had was permanent but your stars show it is now.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
For more call 0905 817 2064

Every situation has a positive angle to it, even if it doesn't seem to at first glance. You're a good sign with your heart in the right place so stay true Leo.

VIRGO
AUG 23-SEPT 23
For more call 0905 817 2065

A good day for getting down to some serious study. Lack of attention from a close one is not due to you so don't fret about this part of your life.

LIBRA
SEPT 24-OCT 23
For more call 0905 817 2066

You may be feeling the urge to take a holiday. Anything other than work will appeal to you. Don't you think it's time to deal with professional issues?

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 21
For more call 0905 817 2067

Your jealousy towards a new friend that a close one has let into their life is an unhealthy obsession. Who wants someone who won't allow them freedom?

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 22-DEC 22
For more call 0905 817 2068

Family are making more demands on you than usual and most of them are very unfair. What can you do about this? So far you've told everyone but them.

CAPRICORN
DEC 23-JAN 20
For more call 0905 817 2069

Telling tales on other people will come back on you. Keep a clear view of what is your business. Not doing so can affect friends and lovers in your future.

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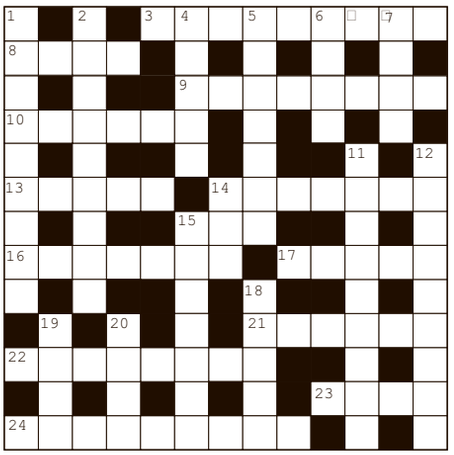
Dinner and a Movie

★ Fancy winning dinner and a movie for you and a friend? We've teamed up with West India Quay's Via and Cineworld West India Quay to offer two pizzas, two bottles of Peroni (or a bottle of wine) and a pair of tickets to the cinema.

To be in with a chance of winning, just tell us the name of the star of *Django Unchained*, pictured here on the right. Email your answer to newsdesk@wharf.co.uk with "Movie Night" in the subject line. The closing date for entries is January 26, 2013.

Include your name and postal address and the details and tickets will be posted to you.

Crossword



ACROSS

3. Frozen missiles (9)
8. Operator (4)
9. Newspaperman (8)
10. Star sign (6)
13. Stair part (5)
14. Exhibiting silliness (7)
15. Corpulence (3)
16. Game of chance (7)
17. Javelin (5)
21. Ridiculous (6)
22. Everything considered (3,2,3)
23. French cheese (4)
24. Alpine plant (9)

DOWN

1. Red admiral, say (9)
2. Absolutely essential (9)
4. Scandinavian (5)
5. Destroy completely (4,3)
6. Bushy hairstyle (4)
7. Look lasciviously (4)
11. Beach or pool attendant (9)
12. Resents (9)
14. Wages, salary (3)
15. A warship (7)
18. Moves on foot (5)
19. Lost blood (4)
20. Watch face (4)

ACROSS: 3. Snowballs; 8. User; 9. Reporter; 10. Taurus; 13. Riser; 14. Puerile; 15. Bat; 16. Lottery; 17. Spear; 21. Absurd; 22. All in all; 23. Brie; 24. Edelweiss.
DOWN: 1. Butterfly; 2. Requisite; 4. Norse; 5. Wipe out; 6. Afro; 7. Leek; 11. Lifeguard; 12. Begrudges; 14. Pay; 15. Brigade; 18. Walks; 19. Bled; 20. Dial.

Sudoku

EASY

9		3		1	5	2		7
8	1	7			3	4	5	9
	2		7	4	9			3
	7	1	4		2	5	9	
2	9	5	1		8	6	3	
4	3	8				7	2	
1	8			2		3		
7			3	8	4		1	
		4	9		1	8	7	2

HARD

		8		6	5		4	
	3		1				8	
						5		9
8	7	3			2		6	
				9		7		4
							3	
	6	4		5	3			
					9			
	2	5	6					

GUIDE

In order to complete Sudoku, readers should fill in each of the grids so that every column, row and 3x3 box within the squares to the left contains the digits 1 to 9. No repetition of digits is allowed within any of the sequences. Why not time yourself and see whether you can beat your best with next week's puzzles?

The Wharf's Sudoku puzzles are supplied by sudoku-puzzles.net
For more free brainteasers including Futoshiki, Nonogram and Samurai, go to the website

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THE FANS' ROAR

By Ian Toal

We need to win all our home games

Millwall Supporters Club
millwallsupportersclub.co.uk

A point up at the Reebok on Saturday against Bolton was a decent return. Indeed if you had told us back in August that we would take four points off them, given they were in the Premier League last season, we would have been very happy indeed.

That said, with play-off rivals Watford winning at the weekend, we are starting to lose ground and we need nothing less than maximum points from our home games if we are to mount a serious challenge.

The problem in the Bolton match, as in so many of the games since Chris Wood left the club, is our failure to take the chances we are creating. Dany N'Guessan was the main culprit.

Whether it's a new signing or the current players at the club stepping up to the plate, we need to increase the number of chances we convert into goals otherwise the play-offs will get further and further away. Kenny Jackett made a positive move in the chase for a play-off spot last week when he strengthened the left wing by signing Martyn Woolford from Bristol City.

> "We need to increase the chances we convert into goals

Woolford scored the winner against us in the 2009/10 play-off final for Scunthorpe and has always looked like a skilful player when we've seen him in action.

He made a steady, if unspectacular, debut up at Bolton but pleasingly he got stuck into a few challenges and almost scored a screamer which would have been a great way to win over the Lions' supporters.

Rumours are swirling that we are trying to secure another couple of Bristol City players, strikers Steven Davies and Ryan Taylor.

With the Bristol City manager Derek McInnes sacked on Saturday it will be interesting to see how these deals progress.

The FA Cup fourth round match with Aston Villa has been confirmed that it will be played on Friday, January 25, with a 7.45pm kick-off. Tickets are now on sale for what should be a cracking game, but defender Shane Lowry will miss out against his former team as he will be serving a suspension for his tenth booking of the season at Bolton.

Before that we will be concentrating on our home league match against Burnley this Saturday.

Irons must shore up defence to avoid drifting downward

WEST HAM

Big Sam's boys will want to put Sunderland defeat well behind them

Giles.Broadbent
@wharf.co.uk

GETTY

James Tomkins, centre, is booked during his team's defeat to Sunderland. The club said he was not for sale

The Hammers' defensive frailties, especially away from home, saw them dispatched 3-0 at Sunderland, a stark reminder that injury has decimated their defensive ranks.

West Ham were on the road at Manchester Utd for an FA Cup replay (after *The Wharf* went to press) but whatever the result, the team will be keen to erase memories of Saturday's trip north, which left them with a small points buffer from teams trying to stay clear of the relegation zone.

There can be no such slip-ups against this weekend's opponents as bottom-of-the-table QPR head east to the Boleyn, a game manager Sam Allardyce will have notched down as a home win on his prospective points chart. Captain Kevin Nolan said the weary Wearside defeat was unacceptable and apologised to fans who had travelled so far to see such an under-par display.

Nolan said: "It is now about us getting back on it, straight away.

"What happened at Sunderland wasn't acceptable to us, not with the standards we have set ourselves. It is up to us to show improvement, get back to where we have been and we will be putting in hard shifts at the training ground this week to do this."

Possible new signings and contract confirmations look to shore up the shaky defence, which saw rookie Dan Potts drafted into action.

Injured full-back Joey O'Brien has put pen to paper on a new deal to 2016 and Big Sam is pressing ahead with a £4million bid for Blackburn defender Martin Olsson with James Collins and George McCartney sidelined.

Meanwhile the manager has insisted James Tomkins will not be sold after interest from Newcastle.

RUGBY

Millwall fall foul of powerful fight back

MILLWALL suffered their second defeat of the year in an entertaining clash with Clacton.

The Isle of Dogs side dominated the first half before a second half fight back at Millwall Park meant Finbar Dennehy and Andy Long's tries were in vain. Meanwhile, Millwall's second team, the Llamas, recorded their first win of 2013 in a low scoring clash away to Wanstead.

Matt Burbeck got a debut try after Jamie Fitzpatrick charged down a Wanstead clearance.

Llamas captain Shafik Visram said: "I feel privileged to have been part of this victory and look forward to some more great performances from the Llamas."

The third team is the only one in action this weekend, when they entertain Ilford IV on Saturday.

WEEKEND FLUTTER WITH THE RACING POST

FOOTBALL

Wigan have flirted with relegation for a number of years and their injury crisis could once again put their Premier League status in jeopardy.

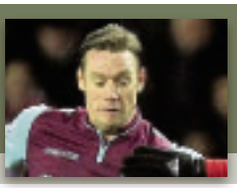
Improving Sunderland head to the DW Stadium on Saturday and the Black Cats look a cracking bet at 12-5 to beat the limp Latics.
Mark Langdon

RACING

Sprinter Sacre looks nailed on to win the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Saturday, but there is little point in getting stuck in at odds of around 1-6, Somersby shapes as a good each-way alternative at 9-1. Mick Channon's horse has run some of the best races of his career here.
Ed Quigley

For daily expert advice, top tips and the latest news from our experts go to racingpost.com

Sport Wharf



SORRY STATEMENT
Kevin Nolan apologises for Hammers' performance P55

GETTY

THE POWER OF YOUTH IS ON ADDICKS' SIDE

CHARLTON

Powell looks to the future by bringing on the latest crop of academy players

Rob.Virtue
@wharf.co.uk

Charlton's next generation of youth players has got manager Chris Powell excited about the future.

The Addicks' boss gave striker Adebayo Azeez a chance to show what he could do in the FA Cup earlier this month and last week included three young academy graduates on the bench.

Callum Harriot went on to get his first Championship appearance and, after the match, Powell said how proud he was of the young stars.

"We've always had pride in our academy producing players for our first team," he said.

"Sadly a lot of them get sold on but we've always had a rich vein of players coming through and hopefully this is a good, new batch for us.

"Chris Solly and Scott Wagstaff are academy graduates and everybody knows about the ones we've had in the past – Scott Parker, Jonjo Shelvey, Carl Jenkinson and Rob Elliot. I could go on.

"With our development squad this year doing ever so well under Nathan Jones, they've caught my eye. They've trained well whenever they've joined the senior group."

And the Charlton manager said it was important to bring them on slowly.

He said the involvement would give players like unused substitutes Morgan Fox and Semi Ajayi invaluable experience.

"People often want them to come in and start but it's not always that easy when they're not used to these surroundings," said Powell.

"Sometimes you can let them go and find their way but normally you've just got to nurture them, dip them in and let them have five or 10 minutes. We've done that with Ade Azeez last week and with Callum Harriot this week.

"I'm really pleased for them and it's good also for Morgan Fox and Semi Ajayi to sample what it's like in the dressing room, the preparation, when I talk before and at half-time, it's just part of their education.

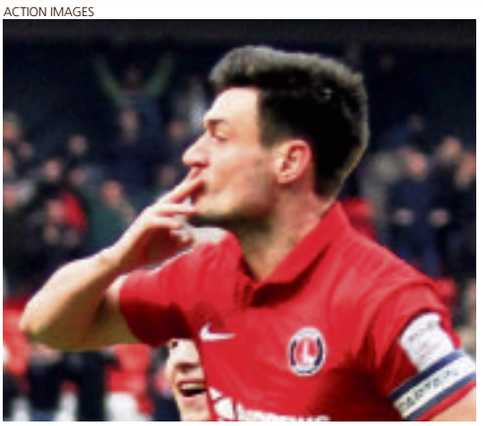
"So I'm really pleased for those boys to be involved in a home win because we haven't had many of them this season."

Youth product Wagstaff got the crucial second goal to ensure a 2-1 win over Blackpool at The Valley over the weekend.

Captain Johnnie Jackson scored the other goal in the win, which puts the Addicks in 14th position in the Championship.

Charlton travel to Blackburn this weekend. Kick off will be at 3pm on Saturday.

ACTION IMAGES



Above, youth product Scott Wagstaff scores at The Valley against Blackpool Right, Addicks captain Johnnie Jackson celebrates his goal at the weekend

David Dunne advances with the ball for Blackheath

Thrilling game ends in home loss

RUGBY

BLACKHEATH lost in a thrilling contest at home to Old Albanian at the weekend.

There was little to separate the two sides and when Liam Gibson scored a try with less than 15 minutes remaining to take Blackheath level, the south-east Londoners looked favourites to take the points.

However, the Old Albanian backs, who had proved a handful all game, helped swing the match back in their favour and Matt Chambers scored the winner. The fixture at a cold Rectory Field began in Blackheath's favour when a 30 metre drive through midfield led to Dave Bonner crossing to give them the lead.

A penalty pegged them back before Jack Walsh got the home side's second try to put them 14-3 up. Lawrence Raynor and Billy Johnson then both went over to edge the visitors in front before Bonner scored his second to give Blackheath a 19-17 lead at the break.

Chambers and Chris Lombard then got the away side ahead again before Gibson set up the epic finish.

Blackheath travel to second-placed Blaydon on Saturday.

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